

Claim 9 remains in the application.

Reconsideration is respectfully requested of the rejection of claim 11 under 35 USC 103(a), as being unpatentable over Peterson '020.

Features of the accounting system (Fig. 1) including an accounting center (1 in Fig. 1) and a terminal device (10 in Fig. 1) communicating with the accounting center are a terminal device having first and second memories and first and second controllers, as claimed in claim 9, the terminal device including a detector (MT in Fig. 1) configured to detect whether a portable device with a storage medium (50 in Fig. 1) is connected to the terminal device, wherein when the detector detects that the portable device is connected to the terminal device (step S81 in Fig. 14), the first controller of the terminal device updates attributes of information stored in the storage medium (steps S82-83 in Fig. 14) of the portable device from an unavailable state to an available state (step S86 in Fig. 14) after the accounting points, stored in the first memory of the terminal device (45 in Fig. 3), are updated correctly (steps S84-85 in Fig. 14). See Fig. 14 and page 56, line 9 to page 57, line 12 of the present application, for example.

A functional advantage of the above-noted features of the present invention, enabled because of the claimed structure, is that a downloaded file is made available in the portable

device (50 in Fig. 1) by carrying out a point processing in the terminal device (10 in Fig. 1) without having to transfer the downloaded file to the second memory (15 in Fig. 3) of the terminal device.

It is respectfully submitted that Peterson '020 fails to show or suggest a detachable portable device having a storage medium, and a terminal device including a detector for detecting whether the portable device is connected to the terminal device, wherein when a connection is detected, distributed information is made available after carrying out a point processing in the terminal device. In Peterson '020 there is no portable device detachable from the terminal device thereby the first controller of the terminal device cannot be used to update the attributes of information stored in the portable device.

Applicant, at least for the above-noted reasons, respectfully disagrees with the assertion in the Office Action at page 3 that the limitation beginning with "when the detector..." is merely functional language having no patentable weight, because by those limitations, the file downloaded to the portable device (50 in Fig. 1) can also be made available in the portable device by carrying out the point processing only at the terminal device (10 in Fig. 1) without shifting the file to the HDD (15 in Fig. 3) of the terminal device (10 in Fig. 1).

It is respectfully submitted that, for at least the above-noted reasons, the presently recited invention distinguishes from the prior art in terms of structure and function.

Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that claim '9 is patentably distinct over Peterson '020.

Favorable reconsideration is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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